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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

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**RESULTS OF SOIL CONSERVATION
GRAZING PRACTICES
ON NORTHERN ARKANSAS
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

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JUN 16 1953

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Fayetteville, Arkansas
Dec., 1952

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Agr-SCS-Ft. Worth, Tex., Dec., 1952

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Introduction

The purpose of this publication is to stimulate interest in the field of range management in North Arkansas by Soil Conservation Service technicians. It is hoped by presenting some of the experiences, problems and difficulties encountered by Soil Conservation District Cooperators in managing their native grasses, that new ideas and new approaches will be developed to stimulate and increase production in the practice of range management.

Conservative estimates determined from conservation survey data developed by Soil Conservation Service shows that there are approximately 3,700,000 acres of land in North Arkansas that should be managed as native grass land. Most of this area is densely covered with scrub oak, hickory and cedar. Experience by some district cooperators show that the grazing capacity can be tripled by good brush control programs and would increase the present number of cattle in North Arkansas by 200,000 head.

A report by the University of Arkansas states that cash income from sales of cattle in Arkansas in 1950 was 50 million dollars, or 10.3 percent of the total cash farm income for the state.

From experiences of district cooperators practicing good brush control in North Arkansas, it can be conservatively estimated that the total income from the sales of cattle in Arkansas can be increased to one hundred million dollars.

In presenting this brief report on some of the experiences and problems encountered by cooperators in managing their native grasses, it is recognized that there are probably numerous examples by other district cooperators not contained herein that are as good and illuminating as the ones given here.

District cooperators in North Arkansas have tried many methods of both mechanical and chemical brush control. The results so far vary in both percent of kill and percent of re-sprouting. Their experiences are undoubtedly very beneficial in that they furnish valuable information that will be helpful in encouraging brush control.

It is hoped by the presentation of this material we can obtain more information on what are good range practices for this area. Our objective should be to learn and develop range practices for restoration and proper maintenance of native grasses for this area. We have the native forage producing land. Our potential is great and with careful observations as we move along with our range program, our production is bound to increase.

SOME TYPICAL PRACTICES OF RANGE IMPROVEMENT IN NORTH ARKANSAS

Clyde Hiatt - Franklin County Soil Conservation District

Mr. Hiatt's spread covers about 6,000 acres in the Charleston prairie, hundreds of acres of which have never been plowed. Mr. Hiatt stated that his interest in native grass management started a long time before he was elected to the Board of District Supervisors of the Franklin County Soil Conservation District, but since being a member of the Board he has learned much of the value of management and proper stocking of native grasses.

Mr. Hiatt reports that he now has his pastures subdivided into areas that will carry 30 to 50 head of cattle, and still leave his grasses in good shape. Most of his pastures are approximately 500 to 600 acres in size with adequate water facilities and mineral boxes in each pasture.

Mr. Hiatt does not put his bulls with the cows until April 1, so his calves will drop in January and February. By fall, Mr. Hiatt states that his calves average 400 to 500 pounds. He further states that native grasses are his cheapest feed and if he had to put a cost figure on his native grass, it would be about one dollar to produce one hundred pounds of beef. He has livestock on the native grasses year-long and supplements during the winter with about one pound of (34%) range pellets and hay per cow a day.

Mr. Hiatt states that he increases the tonnage of hay production double by applying 200 pounds of 20-60-40 fertilizer per acre on his bluestem meadows. He also has tried to supplement his native grasses with King Ranch bluestem, but he says it has not had time to warrant any definite conclusions.

Bruce Briggs - Crooked Creek Soil Conservation District

Mr. Briggs reports that cedar and oak brush are the principal problems on his native grass pastures. Mr. Briggs owns 160 acres of good pasture land of which 80 acres is maintained in native grasses for grazing in April, May and June, and again in the fall and winter. Mr. Briggs reports that he has been running 15 to 20 cows and young calves on this 80 acre pasture each year and that his calves will average about 350 to 450 pounds in the fall. However, the cows and calves are on tame pasture during July, August and September. Mr. Briggs plans to try chemical control of his brush next spring.

H. E. Bledsoe - Crooked Creek Soil Conservation District

Mr. Bledsoe has tried both chemical and mechanical methods to control the mixed oak and hickory on his 154 acre farm in the Hill Top community. On all mechanically treated areas, he reports that the sprouts are coming in fast. On a 40 acre pasture treated with chemicals in the spring of 1951, very few sprouts are coming in and both big and little bluestem are coming in fast and already he is able to carry 10 mother cows on this 40 acre pasture. By using chemicals Mr. Bledsoe has increased the carrying capacity on this 40 acres from practically nothing to four acres per cow during the spring.

Dr. W. A. Hudson - Crooked Creek Soil Conservation District

Dr. Hudson owns approximately 3400 acres in the Crooked Creek Soil

Conservation District which he has had under agreement for eight years. Dr. Hudson reports that he has been trying to find a suitable grass for shallow soils for many years. He believes he now has found the grass - King Ranch bluestem. Dr. Hudson planted seven acres of KR bluestem in 1951. By accident, the pasture was grazed heavily and yet the KR bluestem produces roots 14 inches deep and produces a heavy leaf growth. Dr. Hudson plans to plant several hundred acres of KR bluestem on savannah sites to be used for summer grazing.

Tuck Stacy - King's River-Long Creek Soil Conservation District

Mr. Stacy owns 180 acres of land on the Missouri line, of which 120 acres is typical savannah land. Mr. Stacy reports that he has used the 120 acres of native grasses for supplementary grazing for the past five years. He runs about 20 head of mother cows and calves on this 120 acres in April, May and June. He believes that with control of the oak brush he can double the grazing capacity on his native grasses. However, Mr. Stacy reports that at the present the 120 acres of native grasses are sufficient to supplement his 60 acres of tame pasture.

John Willis - Buffalo Soil Conservation District

Mr. Willis reports that he has been running 50 to 70 head of grown cattle on a section of native grasses in the flint rock soils for eight years. Mr. Willis says that cattle used to winter on sideoats grama in the vicinity of Pindall. Sideoats grama in this area are almost entirely confined to the cedar areas and Mr. Willis reports that cedar has increased so greatly during the past 10 years that the carrying capacity of the native grasses in this area has decreased at least fourfold.

Mr. Willis has been girdling mixed oaks and hickories and running goats for several years. He has found this a suitable method of controlling the mixed oaks and hickories and increasing the grazing capacity four or five times.

Mr. Willis finds that the bluestems and Indiangrass make a remarkable growth the first year after girdling the mixed oaks and hickories. Mr. Willis believes that a careful control on numbers of goats to be used following girdling is very important in that too many goats are harmful to the native grasses.

Lendon Chambers - Crooked Creek Soil Conservation District

Mr. Chambers operates a 373 acre farm in the Lead Hill community using bermudagrass, lespedeza and sudangrass for summer grazing and uses 160 acres of native grasses for early spring grazing. Mr. Chambers reports that ryegrass is his best cool season grass. Using this system of grazing, Mr. Chambers runs 30 to 50 head of cattle yearlong.

Mr. Chambers plans to airplane spray approximately 100 acres next spring to give the native grasses less competition from the brush. Mr. Chambers states that by removing the brush from the range lands in Boone

County by Chemicals, the farmers can more than double the numbers of animals and yet have the cheapest feed available.

W. R. Davis - Central Valleys Soil Conservation District

Mr. Davis reports that he has planted approximately 2,000 acres of *Sericea lespedeza* by airplane on savannah sites. The *Sericea*, planted at the rate of 10 pounds to the acre, right in the bluestems is doing well and offers excellent early grazing as well as grazing throughout the summer. He has tried some chemicals for brush control without much success so far. He controls his oak brush by girdling at an estimated cost of \$5.00 per acre. He estimates that girdling the scrub oaks has increased the grazing capacity of his ranch fifty percent.

Mr. Davis plans to seed approximately 2,000 acres more by airplane to *Sericea* next spring, and apply chemicals by airplane for brush control. He will use a mixture of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T for the first time.

Mr. Davis reports that by supplementing the native grasses with *Sericea lespedeza* and by girdling the scrub oaks, he can figure one cow to 10 acres of land. On land that has not had the scrub oaks deadened or seeded to *Sericea*, Mr. Davis reports that the grazing capacity is 25 to 30 acres per cow. He uses registered Brahman bulls on good grade cows. His calves will average 25 to 125 pounds more in the fall than those not having the Brahman cross.

Montia McNorton - Strawberry River Soil Conservation District

Mr. McNorton reports that he has leased 600 acres of native grasses which he uses in addition to his 400 acres. On this 1,000 acres, Mr. McNorton runs 250 head of cattle. Mr. McNorton reports that he finds it necessary to supplement his native grasses with summer pasture such as lespedeza, bermuda-grass, and sudangrass.

Among the methods of brush control, Mr. McNorton has had better success by girdling than any other method. However, he plans to try 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T applied by air next spring.

For the last two years, Mr. McNorton has been purchasing cattle from the dry areas of Texas, carrying them on his native grasses for a few months, and then putting them on a northern market. He reports that this practice has been a good paying one and the continuation will depend on the northern cattle market.

Zach Bragg - Strawberry River Soil Conservation District

Mr. Bragg moved to Sharp County from Tennessee four years ago and purchased 6,000 acres of scrub oak land. He applied to the Soil Conservation District for assistance for maintaining and increasing the native grasses. After four years of girdling the mixed hardwoods and interplanting the native grasses with orchardgrass and common lespedeza, Mr. Bragg reports that the only answer for this hill country is to remove the scrub timber and convert to a grass program. After forty years of logging in Tennessee,

Mr. Bragg feels as though he is familiar with good forest growing conditions and that most of the soils in the Arkansas Ozarks are not good forest soils, but will grow excellent grass if the brush can be controlled.

Mr. Bragg has used most all chemicals for controlling of brush except 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. He reports that attempting to kill brush with chemicals is very expensive and has had unsatisfactory results. He plans to girdle 1,000 acres this year at a cost of \$5.00 per acre. It is Mr. Bragg's opinion that he has increased the grazing capacity by girdling, planting orchardgrass and lespedeza by fourfold.

L. D. Cotter - Spring River Soil Conservation District

Mr. Cotter, owner of 1,000 acres of good native grasses in the north-west part of Fulton County, runs 200 head of cows, calves and yearlings from April 1 until late fall without any supplement. Mr. Cotter reports that the calves, dropped in April and May, weigh about 400 pounds in November.

Mr. Cotter reports that by keeping out fire and using proper stocking rates, brush is not much of a problem. The range condition class of most of the bluestems has increased from fair in 1948 to excellent. The native grasses in Mr. Cotter's area are mostly little bluestem, big bluestem, switchgrass, panicums and Indiangrass. Mr. Cotter intends to continue using the native grasses from April to fall and feed range pellets during the winter.

A. W. Clayton - Spring River Soil Conservation District

Mr. Clayton owns 1,320 acres of native grass pasture near Wheeling. The range condition classes vary from fair to excellent with most of the area in excellent condition.

The native grasses on Mr. Clayton's farm are big bluestem, little bluestem, panicums, sideoats grama, Elliott bluestem and skeltongrass. Mr. Clayton runs 160 head of grown cattle on this 1,320 acres from April 1 to November 1. His calves will average about 400 pounds by the first of November at which time they are marketed. The mother cows are brought through the winter on range pellets, hay and some small grain pasture.

O. T. Williams - Washington County Soil Conservation District

Mr. Williams owns a 133 acre farm near Greenland on which he runs about 20 head of grown cattle. Mr. Williams is primarily interested in improved pasture, fescue and Mother White clover for cool season grazing and Sericea and bermudagrass for warm season grazing. Mr. Williams reports that he has a 6-acre pasture on heavy, moist soil which was planted to *Holcus lanatus* 40 years ago. He has this to say about this 6 acres of velvetgrass, "My cows start grazing the velvetgrass in February and will leave fescue and Mother White clover to graze the velvetgrass during February, March and early April." After 40 years of heavy early spring grazing, the velvetgrass is still in good condition.

Raymond Ash - King's River-Long Creek Soil Conservation District

Mr. Ash has been using native grasses for many years on this 600 acre ranch located in the flint hills. He reports that at the present, he is running 45 head of mother cows and their calves. He states that most of his range is slowly being taken over by oak brush and his grazing capacity now is about half of what it was 10 years ago. Mr. Ash plans to airplane spray 200 acres next spring with 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. Mr. Ash reports that he has made several observations on chemical treated brush areas and feels that he can increase the carrying capacity on his farm enough the first year to pay for the chemical application.

R. A. Cox - Crooked Creek Soil Conservation District

Mr. Cox reports that he has a 15 acre native grass meadow on his farm that has never been plowed up. When Mr. Cox purchased this farm several years ago, he applied to the Crooked Creek Soil Conservation District for technical assistance in preparing his farm plan. This 15 acre native grass meadow is on shallow soil and is moderately sloping whereas his other 110 acres is deep soil. With the advice of the local Soil Conservation Service technician, Mr. Cox left this meadow in native grasses. Mr. Cox reports, "Leaving this 15 acres in native grasses is one of the most important decisions I have ever made on my farm because during the dry years the native grasses hold up very good and offer lots of grazing and in the normal rainfall years this meadow is used for hay production". Mr. Cox always cuts his native grass hay before July 15. In addition to the hay production, Mr. Cox reports that he runs 15 head of mother cows on this meadow in the fall and winter, and the native grasses show no signs of decreasing in vigor or composition.

Raymond Young - Lonoke-Pulaski Soil Conservation District

Mr. Young reports that he runs 14 head of cows and nursing calves on 59 acres of post oak range near Cabot. He does have 6 acres which he cleared and seeded to lespedeza, but the rest has been girdled and poisoned with Sal Soda and Arsenic and part of the area treated with Ammate.

Mr. Young states that both poisons gave good results and the native grasses responded very good, but sprouts are coming in around the base of the trees. Mr. Young uses his crop fields to supplement his native grasses during the fall and winter. He states that his calves do very well on the native grasses, weighing about 350 to 450 pounds in the fall.

J. W. Hunt - Strawberry River Soil Conservation District

Mr. Hunt reports that he has been using 400 acres of native grasses for over 20 years and that his cattle always seem to do better on native grasses than on tame pasture. Mr. Hunt states that he runs weaners, yearlings, 2-year olds, and grown cattle and sells according to the market. He runs from 20 to over 100 head since this area has always had plenty of open range, but now the new stock law in Arkansas will force him to graze only fenced areas.

Mr. Hunt stated it would be hard to determine his stocking rates since he has used open range, but he stated his calves would average over 400 pounds in the fall and his 2-year olds would average 900 pounds.

H. B. Lamb - Strawberry River Soil Conservation District

Mr. Lamb owns 1,000 acres of range land near Melbourne which he has been running cattle on for over 15 years. He states that he has never paid much attention to the condition of his native grasses, but was more interested in maintaining numbers of animals since he has always had plenty of open range to use in addition to his own land.

Since becoming a cooperator with the Strawberry River Soil Conservation District, Mr. Lamb states that he has learned to appreciate the value of his native grasses. Now that he must comply with the state stock law, he is trying to stock his 1,000 acres of native grasses according to the condition and grazing capacity of his grasses. He is running 75 to 100 head of grown cattle and his grasses appear to be improving. Mr. Lamb believes that the grazing capacity on his land can be doubled by brush control, but his experience with mechanical brush control is that the price is prohibitive and he gets lots of sprouting.

Sam Jeffery - Strawberry River Soil Conservation District

Mr. Jeffery reports that he has been running weaners, yearlings, and grown cattle on 400 acres of native grasses for several years and the gains are as good as gains from neighbors who use tame pastures. Mr. Jeffery lives near Mt. Olive which has been an area of open range until 1950.

Mr. Jeffery states that in addition to his 400 acres, he has about 200 acres more available to him. He has found that on this 600 acres 50 to 60 grown cattle is about the right number for his grasses. Mr. Jeffery stated that his calves in the fall average about 400 pounds.

Dan Stone - Central Valleys Soil Conservation District

The Stone Ranch covers 7,600 acres of which 5,000 acres is typical savannah conditions. This land has been a U. S. Army training area for 20 years or more and the native grasses were in good or better conditions.

Mr. Stone after purchasing the land applied to Central Valleys Soil Conservation District Office for technical advice on how to use the native grasses correctly.

Mr. Stone reports that he has completed the necessary cross fences and has constructed 31 stock ponds, distributed approximately one pond to every 250 acres. Mineral and salt boxes have been constructed and located to assist in regulating grazing.

After three years of running 250 Santa Gertrudis mother cows and their calves, the native grasses are still improving and in most areas have reached

an excellent condition. Mr. Stone had this to say of his operation, "It is my plans to increase the Santa Gertrudis herd as long as the grasses will carry them and yet have the grasses in good growing conditions". Mr. Stone has found that his cattle use the native grasses more uniformly by cross fencing large pastures and developing water facilities where the animals can get the water without having to walk too far.

Mr. Stone reports that he is very much pleased with the gains his calves make on the native grasses. His 1951 calf crop averaged 504 pounds at nine months and he believes his 1952 calf crop will be equally as good.

Mr. Stone is planting bermudagrass, fescue, ladino clover, and silage crops to supplement the native grasses, which will also help to reduce the amount of range pellets and hay to be fed during the winter. Mr. Stone reports that he plans to have 2,500 acres of improved pasture to supplement his 5,000 acres of native grasses.

Bob Hancock - Franklin County Soil Conservation District

Mr. Hancock purchased three farms in the Charleston Prairie in order to block up 1,000 acres. He applied to the Soil Conservation District office for technical assistance in making a basic plan for his ranch. One of the farms Mr. Hancock bought had been laid out for about 15 years, and it had a good cover of bluestems. This part of his ranch is being used as a guide for stocking the remainder of the ranch. At the present, Mr. Hancock reports that he is stocking at the rate of about 18 acres to the cow.

Mr. Hancock is planting fescue and ladino clover on the creek bottoms for cool season grazing, and is planting *Sericea lespedeza* for hay meadows.

John J. Carson - Washington County Soil Conservation District

Mr. Carson has had experience with both mechanical and chemical brush treatment on his 3,500 acre ranch near Hazel Valley. Eight hundred acres were treated with white arsenic and caustic soda in 1948. Mr. Carson reports that lots of sprouting is taking place and some areas are developing into dense thickets, but he states he has 1,000 goats which are helping keep down the brush. Areas that he treated with 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T have less numbers of sprouts than areas treated with other chemicals. After the area was treated, it was seeded to orchardgrass, ryegrass and *lespedeza*.

Mr. Carson is running some 100 head of grown cattle and his calves average about 400 to 500 pounds in the fall. He states that his grass will carry another 150 head of cattle.

Lynch King - Washington County Soil Conservation District

Mr. King reports that he uses 100 acres of bluestem grasses to supplement his summer grazing program. Mr. King stated, "When I turn my cows on the native grasses they don't come to the barn until I go after them." Mr. King also stated that his native grass pasture is his cheapest feed and yet his cattle do as well on native grasses as they do on improved pasture.

Mr. King reports that both oak brush and cedar are holding down the productivity of his native grass pasture. He plans to airplane spray with 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T next June at a cost of \$9.65 per acre.

M. G. Cassidy - Washington County Soil Conservation District

On Mr. Cassidy's farm there are 455 acres across White River in the hills that have been carrying 50 to 75 head of grown cattle for over 20 years. Mr. Cassidy reports that this pasture of mostly native grasses with some bermudagrass and lespedeza is the cheapest feed he has on his 810 acre farm. He reports that the cattle stay in this pasture about 8 months out of the year. They are wintered on fescue, orchardgrass, clover and adequate amounts of hay. Mr. Cassidy believes that proper fertilization makes it possible for his livestock to graze about 4 weeks longer on his improved pasture as compared to improper fertilized pasture. Mr. Cassidy reports that his calves weigh about 400 to 450 pounds in the fall.

Ted Sutton - Madison County Soil Conservation District

Mr. Sutton reports that his main problems are scrub oaks and cedar. He believes the cedar can be controlled by cutting them out, but believes chemical control is the only answer to the oak brush. Mr. Sutton stated that he had 40 acres airplane sprayed this spring with a 50-50 mixture of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T applied at the rate of 3.2 pounds of acid per acre. Mr. Sutton says this type of application costs \$9.65 per acre. Mr. Sutton says, "Of course, it is too soon to say yet, but I believe the use of chemicals are going to take the place of all other methods of brush eradication in Madison County."

Cecil Fitch - Madison County Soil Conservation District

Mr. Fitch believes the cheapest pasture for him on his 1,333 acre ranch is the hills he has had the brush mechanically removed from and added to the native grasses lespedeza and orchardgrass. He estimates that this method of brush control has increased the carrying capacity of his range fifty percent.

Mr. Fitch reports that re-sprouting is becoming a serious problem after three or four years on areas that he cannot mow. He stated that he airplane sprayed 100 acres this spring with a 50-50 mixture of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T applied at the rate of 3.2 pounds of acid per acre, costing \$9.65 per acre. Mr. Fitch believes this method of brush control does a better job than mechanical methods and it is cheaper. Mr. Fitch stated, "What the farmers need in Madison County is an economically sound method of brush control that will convert thousands of acres of worthless brush into good grass."

Tom Hargis - Madison County Soil Conservation District

Mr. Hargis believes his 1,108 acres of land in Madison County will carry three times the number of animals that it now carries. Mr. Hargis has been a successful banker in Madison County for many years and is very

much interested in assisting in a brush control program that he believes will double the total income for the county from cattle.

Mr. Hargis reports, "I have had 40 acres of rangeland airplane sprayed with a mixture of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T this spring and if this 40 acres turns out successfully it is our intention to continue this method of brush control."

Lewis Dowdy - Benton County Soil Conservation District

Mr. Dowdy has eradicated 176 acres of mixed oak and hickory brush with a mixture of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. An additional several hundred acres will be treated next spring if the area treated this year is successful.

Mr. Dowdy states that he plans to use these pastures to supplement his summer grazing program. Mr. Dowdy has plenty of bottomland suitable for growing cool season grasses and clovers and by removing the brush on the hilly pastures so the native grasses can come in, he believes he will have a year-long grazing program and will not have to feed much protein during the winter.

Harry Smith - Benton County Soil Conservation District

Mr. Smith, near Bentonville, has had success in clearing about 300 acres of land by bulldozer. Mr. Smith said the cost was about \$35 per acre and he stressed the fact that it was necessary to mow the pastures three to five times a year following a bulldozer job. However, the grazing capacity has been increased fourfold and in addition the production of hay and grass seed add to the farm income.

Mr. Smith reports that he had 300 acres airplane sprayed this spring with a mixture of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T at a cost of \$9.50 per acre. He stated that the area treated with chemicals has a fair stand of native grasses and he believes he can double the grazing capacity by the end of the second year.

Mr. Smith reports that he uses his native grass pastures during the summer months and fescue and ladino clover during the cool season. Mr. Smith has 200 head of grown cows and he believes that his 1,320 acres will carry them, leaving plenty of reserve for the grasses. He reports that his calves weigh from 400 to 500 pounds in the fall.

Mr. Smith reports that he planted several acres to caucasian bluestem in 1950, but got poor results.

Dr. Frank Riggall - Washington County Soil Conservation District

Dr. Riggall is converting 50 acres of land seriously infected with oak brush to pasture by airplane spraying with a mixture of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. This type of application cost Dr. Riggall \$9.75 per acre.

Dr. Riggall has studied the possibilities of controlling brush with various chemicals in Australia, England, Canada and the United States. A

mixture of half and half 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T applied at the rate of 2.5 to 3.5 pounds of acid per acre in an oil solution appears to be the best application at the present.

Dr. Riggall uses the hilly pasture of native grasses for summer grazing to supplement bermudagrass and lespedeza.

Clarence Kerksey - Crooked Creek Soil Conservation District

Mr. Kerksey has been controlling the brush on his land with 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T applied with an airplane. Mr. Kerksey is mainly concerned with controlling post oak, blackjack oak and hickory, and he states that the use of chemicals is most practical and cheaper. The approximate cost is \$9.50 per acre and a second application in five to seven years may be necessary to control the seedlings and some sprouts. The cost of this second application will be about \$5.00 per acre. Mr. Kerksey states that the growth of grasses after the brush has been killed is enough to triple the livestock grazing capacity.

Paul A. Marinoni - Washington County Soil Conservation District

Mr. Marinoni bought his farm in 1946 when he returned home from World War II. He became a cooperator with the Washington County Soil Conservation District through which he obtained technical help from the Soil Conservation Service. He converted his farm into a grassland stock farm.

The first year Mr. Marinoni seeded 250 acres to ryegrass, Kobe and Korean lespedeza. He cleared 40 acres of brush land and seeded lespedeza as a preliminary step to sodding bermudagrass. He now has 100 animals of which 53 are purebred Aberdeen-Angus cows, heifers and three bulls.

Mr. Marinoni uses creep feeders and feeds his calves pulverized oats. When the calves are eight months old they are put on the market. He states that it cost him \$30 a head to creep feed but when the calves are eight months old they weigh 550 to 625 pounds. These calves are 100 pounds heavier than if they hadn't been creep fed. These creep fed calves net Marinoni about \$16.00 per calf more than those that have not been creep fed.

Jack Rose - Strawberry River Soil Conservation District

Mr. Rose reports that he runs 60 head of grown cattle on 272 acres of which 60 acres are used for row crops. He used 153 acres of native grasses year-long and supplements during the summer with 25 acres of bermudagrass and during winter months with hay and cake. He reports that his calves in the fall will average 400 pounds.

Early last spring Mr. Rose reported that he had some cattle to die due to plant poisoning. A careful check was made and it was determined that his cattle died as a result of paint poison gotten from paint buckets.

Tom Edmonston - Strawberry River Soil Conservation District

Mr. Edmonston reports that he has been running cattle on native grasses near Melbourne for several years. On his 488 acre farm, about 200 acres are in good native grasses. Mr. Edmonston states that he maintains his herd at about 100 head year-long.

Last winter and early spring Mr. Edmonston states that he lost several cows due to "crow poison", Amianthemum muscaetoxicum. He further states that the plant has been on his range for several years and he had not lost cattle due to the poisonous effect of crow poison before.

A careful study was made on Mr. Edmonston's range and it was easily determined that the range was overstocked and the cattle were starved into taking large amounts of crow poison.

Mr. Edmonston reports that he is reducing his herd to comply with proper grazing capacity of his native grasses. He used 2,4-D applied by a hand sprayer on horseback to kill the crow poison and the results so far are excellent.

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